

SMALL GAME SURVEY AND INVENTORY FEDERAL AID PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-27-2

PROJECT NR.: 10.0

WORK LOCATION: Region II (Units 13, 14, 15, and 20)

STUDY TITLE: The Status of Alaska Small Game and Factors Influencing Their Populations

PROJECT TITLE: Southcentral Alaska Small Game Management

PERIOD: 1 July 1998–30 June 1999

REPORT OBJECTIVE: This statewide performance report includes Region II's work in small game (hare, grouse, ptarmigan) survey and inventory activities to conserve and enhance Alaska's small game resource to provide a wide range of uses for the greatest benefit of current and future generations of Alaskans. Activities are included and results from this fieldwork are included in the report 10.70.

Editor's note: This report reflects the activities according to the work plan. However, no PR funds were charged to this small game project, contrary to documentation in the work plan. Results of these activities are included in report 10.70.

PROJECT GOAL: The purposes of this study are to measure and interpret changes in the status and use of Alaska's small game populations and their habitat and communicate this information to the Alaskan public. These efforts will raise the status of small game in the Alaskan consciousness. Assessments will focus on examination of sex and age composition, productivity, recruitment, mortality, hunting seasons with associated harvests and hunting pressure, distribution, migration, and concentration population trends (e.g., size and density), and habitat conditions, trend, and use.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES — PTARMIGAN

- Establish methods to assess and predict ptarmigan population levels.
- Examine new techniques to obtain sex and age data from hunter-killed ptarmigan.

Project Activities — Ptarmigan

- Establish and test territorial male count sites in Unit 13.
- Examine ptarmigan carcasses for sex and age and record wing measurements.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES — RUFFED GROUSE

- Monitor and predict population levels with respect to their natural cycle.
- Assess ruffed grouse populations within their normal range and compare to recently transplanted populations.

Project Activities — Ruffed Grouse

- Conduct spring drumming counts on naturally occurring populations (Unit 20) and on recently transplanted populations (Units 14 and 15).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES — SNOWSHOE HARE

- Assess late winter snowshoe hare densities in an area of manipulated habitat and compare to natural cyclic populations.

Project Activities — Snowshoe Hare

- Conduct track counts in late winter at pre-established sites in Unit 14.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE PROJECT SEGMENT PERIOD

HARE

Activity 1: In March conducted snowshoe hare track counts in the Point MacKenzie agricultural area in Unit 14A.

GROUSE

Activity 1: Spring drumming counts were conducted on naturally occurring populations as Anderson/Clear AFS in Unit 20 and on recently transplanted populations in the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys in Unit 14A and on the Kenai Peninsula in Unit 15A.

Activity 2: In September and October wings and tails from hunter shot grouse in Southcentral Alaska were collected and examined for sex and age.

PTARMIGAN

Activity 1: Two methods of conducting spring ptarmigan counts were tested at established sites in Unit 13. Counts of territorial males/breeding pairs of willow and rock ptarmigan were conducted between 11 and 14 May at 5 sites in Unit 13B.

Activity 2: During February and March ptarmigan carcasses were collected from Unit 13 ptarmigan hunters. These were examined for sex, age and crop content, and measurements of wing chord and the eighth primary feather were recorded.

Activity 3: Reports from this work will be submitted as Study 10.7.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project: None

Segment Period Project Costs: (operating+personnel costs)

Fiscal year	Region II	
1998 - 1999	Line	Total
Projected	200 – 500	\$1500
Actual	200 – 500	\$1872

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APPROVAL DATE: _____

